

Appln. No. 09/297,289

Amendment dated April 21, 2003

Response to Office Action dated November 20, 2002

REMARKS

Claims 14-40 and 54-57 are pending in this application and stand rejected.

Claims 14, 23, 34 and 54 are independent.

The Examiner and her Supervisor are thanked for the personal interview conducted on April 15, 2003. The changes presented herein and arguments set out below were discussed generally with the Examiners during that interview, and it is respectfully submitted that this application distinguishes over the art of record at least for the reasons presented at that meeting.

By this Amendment After Final Rejection Applicants seeks to amend the specification and claim 14, 23, 34 and 54, and to add claims 71-94, in accordance with discussions during the personal interview. Upon entry of this Amendment claims 1, 23, 34 and 54 will remain independent.

The presentation of new claims 71-94 is not believed to raise new issues of patentability because those claims all ultimately depend from independent claims 14, 23, 34 or 54.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by this amendment. The attached page is entitled "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made".

As explained in detail below, Applicants have made a diligent effort to place this application in condition for allowance. Should, however, the Examiner deem otherwise, or deem only some of the pending claims to be allowable, the Examiner is respectfully requested

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to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below to discuss how allowance of this application could be expedited.

**The Objection
to the Drawings**

The drawings were objected to in the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review which accompanied the Office Action on grounds the numbers and reference characters used in Figure 13 were not plain and legible.

A suitable substitute copy of Figure 13 is transmitted herewith.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

**The Objection
to the Specification**

The specification was objected to as failing to provide a proper antecedent basis for the aspects of claims 14, 23, 34 and 54 referring to a spring lying in a plane.

As pointed out during the personal interview, the language in question finds support in Figs. 6, 13 and 14 of this application, as they would be interpreted by those skilled in the art.

Further, in the interests of expediting prosecution, Applicants seek to amend the specification to state that the springs shown in those drawings lie in planes. As was agreed during the personal interview, this change does not introduce new matter, since it merely describes what is shown in the drawings and apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.